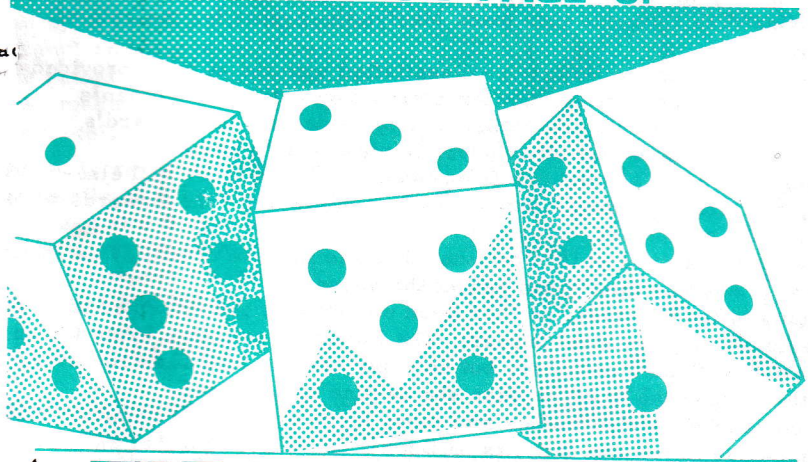
TAMESIDE EYE

No 3. DEC. 1978. 15p.

BARDSLEY'S M-WAY GAMBLE

STORY ON PAGE 3.



TAMESIDE CENTRE 1984. PAGES

NEW! TAMESIDES FIRST ALTERNATIVE PAPER!

THE MURAL MAN

TURN TO PAGE 11.

HYDE SCHOOLS' ROW

page five

PLUS

WHAT'S ON GUIDE,

A WORKING LIFE

PAGE TEN

INDUSTRY, IN COUNCIL

AND LOTS MORE

Tameside Eye

Tameside Eye is a completely independant, six weekly magazine.
It aims to be bright, informative and entertaining.
And it doesn't pull its punches.
Tameside Eye goes behind the public statements on local issues to bring you the news you're not supposed to know.
Tameside Eye doesn't employ any full time workers and it doesn't have an editor or a single boss.
It relies entirely on voluntary contributions from Tameside people.
So if YOU know somethins you think other people should know OR if you simly have a good idea for a feature or a story, OR if you want some free publicity for a function, a meeting or an organisation GET IN TOUCH.

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eye contacts

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NEWS

FULL HOUSE FOR MARLYN

A WELL KNOWN LOCAL "TRANSFER AGENT" HAS ACCEPTED TWO "HOLDING DEPOSITS" ON THE SAME HOUSE, FROM TWO BUYERS, AT THE SAME TIME ....

In May, Geoffrey and Maralyn Howard gave Marlyn Homes - a firm of unqualified "transfer Agents" with offices in Hyde, Ashton and Hadfield - £100. They understood this to be a "Holding Deposit" on 119 Downshaw Road, Ashton, which, at the time, was owned by H. Dean, a local taxi firm boss. The Howards also made Marlyn the agents for the sale of their own house.
After three months the Howards - dissatisfied with the service provided by Marlyn - changed agents, but left their holding deposit on Dean's house with them. During this time, Marlyn - despite the Howard's deposit - sent at least one other buyer to view Dean's house.
In November, after assurances from Dean that he wouldn't sell elsewhere, and after spending a further £40 on surveying - the Howards were ready to sign a contract.
But when they arrived at 119 Downshaw Road to finalise details, Dean was not there. Another family had bought the house.
According to the Howards, neither Dean nor Marlyn had informed them of the existence of these rival buyers. The Howard's solicitor wrote for an explanation to Dean's solicitor, but no reply has, so far, been received.
When the EYE spoke to Mrs. Dean she decline to comment.
Mr. Goodison of Marlyn Homes was more forthcoming. He admitted that Marlyn had accepted two deposits on Dean's house but said that as far as Marlyn was concerned, both prospective buyers were aware of each other. He stated that in such cases the first buyer to sign a contract takes possession.
Taking two holding deposits on the same property is not illegal. But how many house buyers are under the impression that giving a deposit to an estate, or "transfer agent", gives them first refusal on a house, when, in fact, it does no such thing? The Howards certainly were. There is no need for an estate, or "transfer", agent, to take a deposit at all. The actual owner could just as easily take it. But money gathers interest, and the more deposits taken, the more interest accumulates. Marlyn Homes held the Howards £100 for over six months, before arranging for the house to be sold to someone else.

BARDSLEYS M-WAY BET...

AN M-WAY LINK THROUGH AUDENSHAW AND DROYLSDEN THREATENS TO "TEAR THE HEART" OUT OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND DESTROY ONE OF TAMESIDES MAIN BEAUTY SPOTS BUT THERE ARE REPORTS THAT ONE LOCAL PROPERTY BARON HOPES TO CASH IN.

Developer and Builder Roland Bardsley bought the old Droylsden trotting track on Ashton Moss six years ago. But, an agreement for the former owner to continue holding races there runs out next year and will not be renewed. Instead, Bardsley has plans to build a motel on part of this site according to Manchester's 'City Enquirer'.
A motel project only makes sense if the projected Denton/Middleton section of the M/cr. outer ring rd. goes through Droylsden and the Moss, which may happen.

Plans

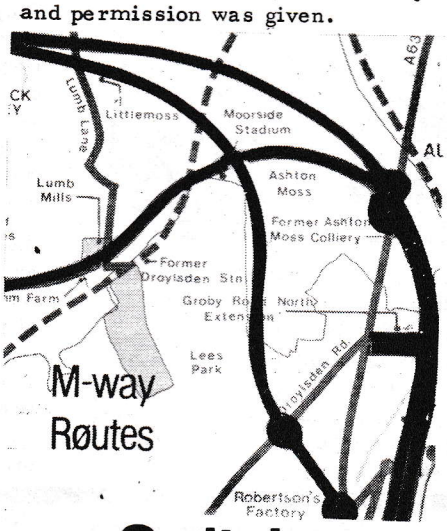
At present there are three alternative routes. All involve considerable destruction of property and homes. All involve building on or near the Moss and/or the Daisy Nook beauty spot. And, all pass close by to Bardsley's "Moorside Stadium" trotting rack. One route actually cuts across the track, making it the perfect site for a motel.

Bardsley's reported plans were made public by 'City Enquirer' months ago at a time when the Motorway plans were only known by Greater Manchester Councillors and officials.

Tom

Bardsley is a prominent Tory with many contacts in the local establishment. The Manager of 'Carriages' the night club Bardsley built at Moorside Stadium is Thomas A. Reid, who was the Conservative party candidate for Denton South East last May.

Recently, facilities at 'Carriages' advertised as Tameside's main leisure centre, have been expanding rapidly. In 1977 six squash courts were added to the club and earlier this year, when permission for four more was refused, Bardsleys slightly modified plans were rushed on to the agenda of the next available planning meeting by a sympathetic Tory councillor, and permission was given.



Switch

Earlier this year Carriages was given the catering contract for the prestigious Tameside Trades and Industries Exhibition, which had been originally sited at the Stalybridge bus sheds. But, control was suddenly switched from Recreation to Estates.

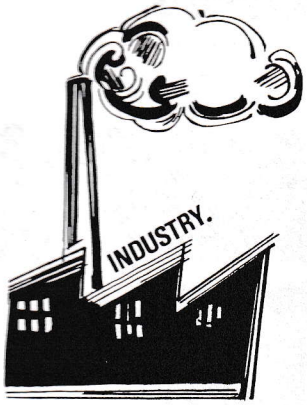
A firm of private consultants - Premier Exhibitions of Cheltenham - was called in and the venue switched to Carriages. The whole thing cost £24,000. Not a little of which went to pay for the building and food supplied by Bardsley.

Politics and property aside, Roland Bardsley is, above all, a builder and money maker. Between 1970 and '76 his main company, Roland Bardsley (Builders) Ltd., whose signs are scattered outside developments all over Tameside, made a total profit of £576,000. Between '72 and '76 he bought £859,000 worth of land all over GMC, and during the same period his Chairmans salary rose from £16,000 in '71 to its present level of £20,000 a year.

Bell

John Bell, the Chairman of Tameside's Youth and Community Dept., has restricted the use of community video equipment. From now on applications from community groups wishing to use the equipment will have to be passed by Bell's committee, Mossley Residents Group used the video to make a film about local housing (which Bell thought was too critical of Tameside policy).
Hence the new censorship rule.

"CARRIAGES" - ROLAND BARDSLEY'S LEISURE VENTURE ON ASHTON MOSS. WITH MOTORWAY



SAFETY OR PROFITS ?

AT A FACTORY IN REDDISH THE WORKERS (MANY FROM TAMESIDE) HAD TO STRIKE TO FORCE MANAGEMENT TO IMPLEMENT GOVERNMENT HEALTH AND SAFETY RULES.....

At 11.30 a.m. on Weds. 8th Nov. two spray painters at Adamsons Containers, Reddish, refused to spray underneath containers in a spray booth without extraction equipment. The tins of paint they had been given were clearly labelled 'High toxic lead content'. The management reaction was swift. THE MEN WERE SACKED

Soon afterwards all members of the three unions at Adamsons walked out. Seven hours later at the shift change 20 men came back and occupied the factory. By Friday the management had agreed to reinstate the two painters and on Saturday morning senior managers and the works engineer asked to be let into the factory to start installing extraxion equipment.
When the equipment was installed the strike was called off and all 350 workers returned.
The workforce were prepared to return to work on Monday morning but management would not allow them until the new system was tested. This took until Wednesday so depriving the workforce of three days' pay.

Later in the week the Stewards were called in by management and told not to put up political propaganda on notice boards. On enquiring what was meant by this they were told it referred to some Anti-Nazi League posters.

low pay in Tameside

HARD UP HERON

There are several Heron petrol stations in Tameside, strategically placed to pull in the punters. Heron Service Stations Ltd. is 80% owned by Heron Motor group which in turn is an off-shoot of what started out as a London-based property group.

The station manager gets a fairly low basic wage (around £63 p.w.) to 'encourage' him/her to meet the targets and so get substantial bonus payments.
The result is inevitable: poor pay, poor conditions,

Up the scale, slightly, at £1 an hour there's the cashier, most of whom work long hours to make their wages up (about 60 hours for many cashiers). If you work nights the pay is £1.05 an hour for a shift lasting from 10pm to 8 am.

At the bottom of the pile there's the cleaner who used to be on £18 per week for 24 hours. The cleaner's just had a wage rise to 90 p per hour. But now the same work has to be done for the same money thanks to a reduction of four hours.

Heron work on a heads-we-win, tails-you-lose principle: At the end of the week your till receipts are compared with sales, and if you're 'under' the difference is taken out of your wages, if you are 'over' Heron keep it.
Heron's pricing policy is a nightmare for cashiers, with a choice of green shield stamps or discount-but discount only on full gallons, as well as cash to be handled.
Then there are deductions from wages that can be made at Head Office discretion - for example for shop theft or when someone drives off without paying for petrol. If the car number is taken though the cashier is let off.

The so-called contract of employment points to easy dismissal by the management, very low holiday entitlements, and you have to sign a note agreeing to the deductions system outlined above before you are taken on.

The heat is really turned on by the bonus schemes (a sick joke to the staff we spoke with - very little bonus ever ends up in their hands) Shop sales at one Heron station were well under target set by Head Office, the result led to a cashier being sacked for not selling enough oil on her shifts. At about £1 profit per gallon, Heron are understandably keen to push their oil sales.

We worked out that one station had a weekly turnover of about £6,300 out of which the wage bill of under £300 had to be paid.

If you work at Heron and are interested in joining the T&G contact Mr. Ollerton, Vehicle Building and Automotive Group, 1 The Crescent, Salford. 061 736 1407

QUICK WORK

The recent Ford dispute seems to have had a severe effect on Dealers In Ashton Quicks have had few new cars on sale and have been unable to guarantee delivery dates to potential buyers.
EYE was intrigued therefore to spy some gleaming T reg. Fiestas on the forecourt. Had a secret way around the picket been found??
Not so
Backed by incessent advertising on Piccadilly radio, year old vehicles from the Channel Islands have been imported to keep sales going. The two Fiestas EYE's correspondent examined had over 13,000 miles on the clock. The salesman felt unable to commit himself on the question of whether they had been fleet vehicles, but was able to release the information that the cars are being sold at all of 150 quid less than the price as new. but then with all this strike caused inflation number plates are getting a costly item.

Schools enquiry cases

HERALD WARNED OFF

WE GIVE THE FACTS

THE NOV.10TH EDITION OF "THE NORTH CHESHIRE HERALD" (A MEMBER OF THE REPORTER GROUP) CARRIED A REPORT ON OFFICIAL ENQUIRIES INTO TWO HYDE SCHOOLS.

THIS REPORT WAS "CENSORED" AFTER HERALD EDITORS RECEIVED "WARNINGS" FROM OFFICIALS AT THE TAMESIDE EDUCATION DEPT.
THIS IS WHAT THE HERALD DID NOT TELL YOU.....

GREENFIELD COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL, HYDE.

Greenfields County Primary School is in the centre of Hyde. It has 232 pupils, 20% of whom are from immigrant families. And, for the past year the rolls have been falling.

Petition

dissatisfaction with the running of the school revolves around the personality and methods of its headmistress Mrs. Edna Shepherd.
In July over 60 angry parents signed a petition complaining about educational standards, discipline, recreational activities and outings, and 11 plus passes. The petition was sent to the Managers of the school and the Education Dept. with a demand for an official enquiry.
Tameside reacted by sending the schools inspector in to make a report. But the parents action spurred on the teachers.

Meeting

On 24th July the teachers held a highly confidential meeting with Marbeck the 2nd in command at the Tameside Education Dept. They expressed their agreement with most of the parents complaints and added more of their own.
They alleged that Mrs. Shepherd was 'Autocratic',

- that she used untrained ancillary workers to fill in for absent teachers. and sometimes left them in charge of classes 'for up to half a day.'
- that she went against 'school discipline' forcing teachers to 'construct a substrata of disciplinary procedure' bypassing the head altogether.
- that she clamped down on 'non-educational school trips'.
- that she rushed new teaching schemes into operation.
- that she 'often' failed to undertake her dinner duties, 'without warning to staff' when only dinner ladies were present.

The teachers were also worried about 'statements made to members of staff that seemed to imply that had they not accepted without question decisions of the head teacher that, as the person who wrote the confidential reports, they would not do very well in the promotions stakes both within and outside the school!

In the minutes of the meeting Marbeck accepted the validity of teachers complaints but advised not to make them official but to wait for the inspectors report to come out.
But, their Union advised otherwise and in Oct. the teachers submitted an official complaint.

In this they allege that the head, after being absent for two days, had 'instructed that no absence notifications should be sent to the offices'. They complained of intimidation and veiled threats and accused the head of habitually shedding the blame for her own mistakes on others.
In Nov. the Inspectors report appeared, and an 'open week' addressed by Tameside Advisors and Inspectors, was held.
This was all part of a 'whitewashing operation' according to the spokesman for the parents action group. Although he agreed with the report in so far as it absolved the ordinary teaching staff from blame, he considered that it did not begin to investigate the allegations made by both parents and teachers. At this point the parents action group sent an angry letter to the 'Herald' - only parts of this letter were published. The Inspectors report is to be discussed at a meeting of parents, teachers and managers of Greenfield St. School on Dec.14th

Sources

Most of the information for this story comes from documents revealed to us in the interests of freedom of information by sources close to the Tameside Education Dept.
We would like to make it quite clear that the teachers of Greenfield School have, at all times, maintained a professional attitude of "no comment" when approached by EYE reporters.

IMPORTATHUG

N.F FOOTBALL 'SUPPORTER' IN COURT CASE

DAVID MACHIN-RIGHT

EYE REPORTERS HAVE BEEN INVESTIGATING N. F. SUPPORTERS INVOLVED IN VIOLENT INCIDENTS AT THEIR TEAM'S FOOTBALL MATCHES IN TAMESIDE WITH INTERESTING RESULTS.

The gentleman pictured on the left appeared on the front cover of last month's EYE. He seemed to be involved in a violent scuffle with "Anti-Nazis".

If he was then it wasn't the first time.

For the man's name is David Machin, he's a storekeeper at Manchester University and he has recently appeared at a Manchester Magistrates Court in connection with a series of incidents with Anti-Nazis in Longsight and Hulme.

He was convicted of 'dangerous driving' and banned for a year after it was revealed that he had deliberately driven his motorbike over the kerb and along the front of several shops at Longsight market, scattering shoppers. His target, it seems, was a stall run by the Longsight/Levenshulme anti-Fascist group.

He was also convicted of 'threatening behaviour' outside Hulme Labour club after an anti-nazi league meeting there. He was 'bound over to keep the peace' and ordered to pay costs.

DIRTY TRICK

EYE ADVERTISERS HAVE BEEN RECEIVING STRANGE 'PHONE CALLS FOLLOWING OUR EXPOSE OF N F VIOLENCE AT THEIR TEAMS FOOTBALL MATCHES IN TAMESIDE

First to get one was the lady who takes the calls for 'Snakehips' disco. She was warned not to 'advertise' in that 'Marxist rag'.

Then, Ged Craven, owner of the Veg Den in Denton received two 'phone calls from two different men. Both claimed to be from the National Federation of Self Employed and both warned Ged not to advertise in the EYE because it was Marxist.

Then the lady who owns the 'General Store' in Glossop received a note from the local N.F. 'respectfully' warning her that if the people who run Tameside Eye got in power (!) they would take her over.

The letters and calls to EYE advertisers seem to be part of a wider campaign. Recently, trade people who advertise in New Manchester Review have received similar calls and letters.

The campaign seems to be a rather feeble attempt to reduce the advertising revenue of any papers which carry news that is unfavourable to the Front.

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ESTIMATES GIVEN

STICK MEN

Next, a trio of ginger-haired brolly wielding mystery men! On 29th June National Front supporters 'invaded' Ashton Town Hall during an anti racist meeting

At the forefront of the charge was a ginger haired man, busily bashing people with his brolly.

On 17th Sept. a ginger haired man carrying a brolly was present when a gang of N. F. supporters got out of their car and beat up a teenage boy on his was to a demonstration at an N. F. match.

Then, in the last issue, we carried a picture of - guess what - yet another ginger haired man hitting an anti-nazi over the head with, yes, a brolly, at an N. F. football match. This man has been positively identified as Stevie Smith an N. F. youth organiser from Miles Platting.

Wonder who all those other ginger haired men were?

no whip round

Reliable sources suggest that local Tories will definitely NOT be organising a whip-round to pay the libel expenses of their leader Colin Grantham. Colin was done to the tune of £1,500 recently by a local headmaster whose school he had attacked in public.

~IN COUNCIL~

THE WAGMAN COMETH

WE PUT THE TAMESIDE EYE TRUANCY INSPECTOR ON THE TAILS OF OUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES TO SEE WHAT THEIR ATTENDANCE AT COUNCIL MEETINGS WAS LIKE LAST YEAR. ON THE WHOLE HE REPORTED THAT THEY WERE GOOD BOYS AND GIRLS WITH THE ODD NAUGHTY EXCEPTION.

Top wagger last year was Cllr. Mrs. Shaw (Lab) of Broadbottom who missed 17 meetings. Mrs. Shaw sits on four committees but her least favourite seems to be libraries and arts because she apologised for her absence four out of a possible eight meetings. Mrs. Shaw claimed £345.05p expenses last year.

Next naughtiest after Mrs. Shaw was Harry Taylor (Con) of Denton who missed 15 meetings and claimed £420.

After Harry came Jack Thornley (Lab) who missed 14 meetings and claimed £316.

Next in line for a smacked botty would have been councillors Hett and Etchells who missed 13 and 12 meetings respectively- but they didn't stand at the last May elections. Did the awful wagman expell them?

Still in double figures are Cllrs. Pettit (Lab) and Radley (Con) who buried political differences in a wag-tie at 10 meetings missed.

Like we said, the attendance of our Councillors is good on average but if you want to check up on yours it's all in black and white below.

COUNCILLORS ATTENDANCE & EXPENSES 77/78

	Non-attendance	Expenses		Non-attendance	Expenses
AMOR	13	332	NEWTON	6	378
ABBEY	2	734	NEWSOME	1	788
ADSHEAD	4	376	OLDHAM	2	408
BARBER	2	386	PEGGS	7	222
BRIERLEY	3	176	PETTIT	10	546
CLARKE	1	16	PARKER	2	762
DEVANEY	4	336	PROCTOR	2	?
ETCHELLS	13	?	RADLEY	10	406
FOSTER	7	278	REED	12	0
FLETCHER	13	1336	RUFFLEY	1	0
FORD	1	?	SHAW	17	345
GRANTHAM	3	952	STELLFOX	1	260
HALES	3	196	H. TAYLOR	13	420
HALL	3	678	W. G TAYLOR	4	318
HADFIELD	4		THORNLEY	14	316
HAYDEN	3	804	Mrs. TRACEY	3	543
JAMES	2	114	TRAVIS	3	580
JONES	7	118	THORPE	1	0
KEIGHLEY	5	234	WILKINSON	6	0
LOMAS	2	318	WEBB	3	218
McANANEY	3	198	WARING	4	462
MEREDITH	6	316			

JUST A MINUTE

A Tameside Chief Officer has found an answer to Council Committees making decisions he does not like - alter the committee's minutes before they go to the full Council for confirmation.

On the 9th August, the Chief Personnel Officer, David Metcalfe and the Computer Manager, Brian Kenyon, went along to a special meeting of the Personnel committee to ask for the second salary upgrading for Kenyon within eleven months and for upgrading for most of the senior staff in the prestige Computer Department. Labour was in a majority on the Committee as two Tories had not turned up.

It was resolved that Kenyon not be regraded and that most of the other proposals be deferred until the next annual budget was submitted.

But before the minutes went to Council on 29th August, Metcalfe altered them to include upgrading for Chief Programmer, Jennifer Cooke (the second in 11 months) and for a Systems Programmer He sought and obtained clearance from Tory Chairman of the Committee, Fletcher, to do this. At the October Council Meeting, Metcalfe's action was condemned and a motion of censure on him was passed.

Computer Manager Kenyon's approach is probably more effective. Although Metcalfe's efforts to alter the minutes to upgrade the two senior posts in Kenyon;s department were thwarted, Kenyon has continued to pay the two persons as if the proposals had gone through.

Kenyon's success in getting pay rises for his already well-paid senior staff has not gone unnoticed in other Council departments. In little over a year he has got big rises for his Deputy; the Chief Programmer; 3 Project Leaders and 3 Systems Analysts.

Webb not wanted

In the last issue we reported that Cllr. Webb, the Labour Social Services shadow failed to turn up to a crisis meeting with Ashton Social workers despite being invited. In fact the Cllr. wished to attend but was informed by Foster, the Chief Officer at Social Services, that the S.S. Chairman Alan Fearn(con) didn't want him to attend. Webb asked Foster to make sure his apologies for not attending were made. According to Webb, Foster or Fearn did not do this. Hence the social workers anger at his unexplained absence.

Handy for Candy

We would like to congratulate Arthur Candy on his retirement as Projects and Development Officer in the Housing Dept. We are just wondering whether he will continue living in his council house in Chester Ave, Denton or in his own cottage in North Wales.

TAMESIDE

IT IS NOT YET AN OFFENCE IN THIS COUNTRY TO BE A POLITICAL ACTIVIST. BUT THE LOCAL POLICE, AND THE TAMESIDE ESTABLISHMENT DON'T SEEM TO SEE IT THAT WAY...

On 27th Oct. 1977 John Pearson a member of the Tameside Socialists Workers Party and an active union official - appeared at a London Magistrates Court charged with 'conduct likely to lead to a breach of the peace' and 'obstructing the police' on the Grunwick picket lines.

WITNESSES?

Police witnesses said that Pearson broke through the lines shouting, 'Kill the bastards'. Pearson says he did no such thing but was arrested whilst trying to prevent a fellow picket from being thumped by a member of the police special patrol group.

At the trial one of the charges was dropped. But, Pearson's finger prints were taken, his case filed, and the affair was well publicised in the local press.

SACKED

The following month he was sacked from his job at Tameside's computer Dept. The sacking was instigated at a high level and pushed through by Halls, the Asst. Chief Personnel Officer for Tameside. He claimed tha Pearson had taken too much time off work for his union work. NALGO, Pearson's union, denied this, accused Tameside of victimising an active official and took his case to an industrial tribunal.

Seven months later the tribunal ruled that Pearson had been unfairly dismissed and ordered Tameside to reinstate him.

That same month, Nigel Seth, another local activist, returned to his car to find it being searched by two policemen. They said they suspected him of flyposting. But, when they found NALGO papers in the back of Seth's car they immediadtely demanded "Where's Pearson?"

They then told Seth to get in his car and move along. But, before he had driven more than a few yards he was stopped by the same policemen, breathalysed and charged with drunken driving.

ELECTIONS

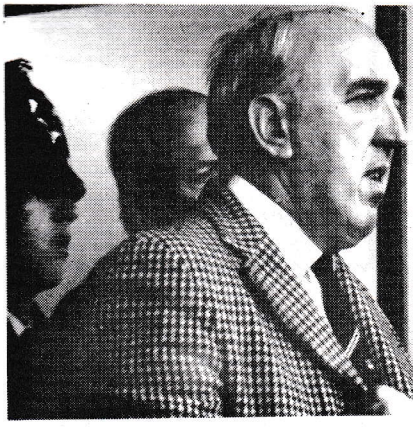
The following month, Sept. 78, officials of the local CARF (The Campaign against Racism and Fascism) were questioned by police in connection with alleged election offences arising out of the distribution of an anti-NF leaflet during the May local government elections. According to CARF, 'The police seemed much more interested in the doings and whereabouts of CARF officials, and particularly John Pearson, than the alleged offence.'

BIG GLOVER

On Friday 15th Sept. John Pearson walked out ot a local Labour Club to find John Tummon , a CARF official, being questioned by two plain clothed policemen. Pearson instantly identified one as Sptdant. Glover of Hyde. When Pearson asked why Tummon was being questioned he was told to 'keep out of this'. But, when he persisted the police hurriedly left.

Two days later, on the 17th, both Pearson and Tummon were picked out of a crowd of over 60 demonstrators at a National Front football match, arrested and charged with 'obstruction' and 'threatening behavior'. Sup. Glover was, as our picture shows, directing operations at the time.

THE EVENTS RECOUNTED IN THIS STORY ARE DISTURBING. THEY SUGGEST THAT THE POLICE ARE TAKING AN UNDUE (IF NOT UNLAWFUL) INTEREST IN LOCAL POLITICAL ACTIVISTS NOT BECAUSE OF WHAT THEY DO BUT BECAUSE OF WHAT THEY REPRESENT. IF THIS IS SO - THEN IT IS A DANGEROUS PRECEDENT



SPTDANT. GLOVER

1984!

POLITICAL SURVEILLANCE IS ON THE INCREASE IN THIS COUNTRY. AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A WELL KNOWN MILITANT TO ATTRACT THE ATTENTION OF YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBOURHOOD SPECIAL BRANCH MAN!

In Sept. 1974 the London magazine 'Time Out' published extracts from police 'general orders' for 'Public and other events'. These revealed that the Special Branch (the police's political arm) is informed, in advance, of all political meetings known to local police. And, reports are sent to 'the Branch' when it's own officers can't attend.

At the Martin Webster walk through Hyde last year demonstrators (and passers by) were filmed with infra red cameras and snapped from helicopters. And the information undoubtedly found its way to central police computers. Most provincial police stations are now linked to these computers so that the beat can request information from them by radio and receive it within minutes.

LOST FREEDOM

So, if you are a well known (or not so well known) activist, or a friend of one (even not so close a friend)

SMILE! YOU'RE ON FILE

or if you have attended a demonstration of any kind (or even passed close by to one) or if you take an active part in your Union affairs, there is a good chance that your local bobby, if asked, could not only tell you the time but also, within minutes, tell you what party you support, what you do for a living, what papers you read and who your friends are. And if he can't, it won't be long before he can.

The orders also reveal that Special Branch involvement in the most minor offences is increasing- 'Whenever persons are arrested for offences connected with political activities including minor breaches of the peace and cases of slogan daubing etc. enquiry is to be made of the Special Branch to ascertain whether anything is known about the accused before the case is dealt with at court.' Special Branch files are often kept on innocent people with no previous convictions and include detailed information on personal habits, friendships, financial status etc.

INFRA BLUE

Aside from the regular monitoring of the left wing press and meetings the police can now call upon a while range of sophisticated technology to keep track of dissidents.

FOR THE NEW "POLICE NATIONAL COMPUTER UNIT" BASED IN HENDON HAS SPACE FOR OVER 40 MILLION FILES. MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR EVERY ADULT IN THE COUNTRY, AND A FAIR FEW OF THE CHILDREN TOO!
AND, OUR LOCAL TOP COP, JAMES ANDERTON THINKS WE SHOULD ALL BE FINGERPRINTED AND MADE TO CARRY IDENTITY CARDS....
1984 IS ONLY SIX YEARS AWAY...

MIKE HARRIS

ARRESTED

AMESIDE 198

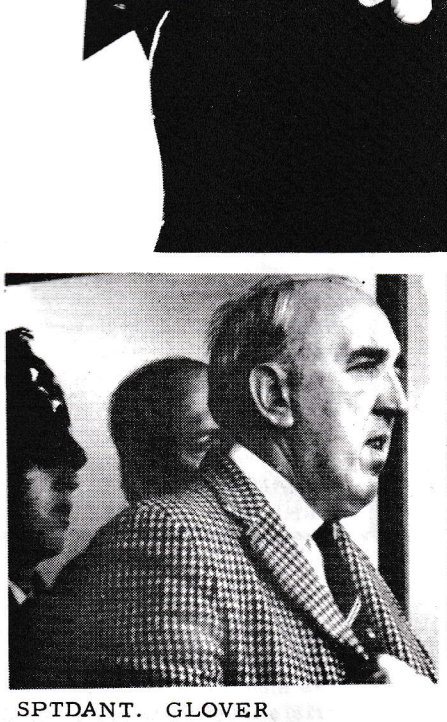
pected him of flyposting. But, when they found NALGO papers in the back of Seth's car they immediadtely demanded "Where's Pearson?"
They then told Seth to get in his car and move along. But, before he had driven more than a few yards he was stopped by the same policemen, breathalysed and charged with drunken driving.

ELECTIONS

The following month, Sept. 78, officials of the local CARF (The Campaign against Racism and Fascism) were questioned by police in connection with alleged election offences arising out of the distribution of an anti-NF leaflet during the May local government elections. According to CARF, 'The police seemed much more interested in the doings and whereabouts of CARF officials, and particularly John Pearson, than the alleged offence.'

LOVER

On Friday 15th Sept. John Pearson walked out of a local Labour Club to find John Tummon , a CARF official, being questioned by two plain clothed policemen. Pearson instantly identified one as Sptdant. Glover of Hyde. When Pearson asked why Tummon was being questioned he was told to 'keep out of this'. But, when he persisted the police hurriedly left.
Two days later, on the 17th, both Pearson and Tummon were picked out of a crowd of over 60 demonstrators at a National Front football match, arrested and charged with 'obstruction' and 'threatening behavior'. Sup .Glover was, as our picture shows, directing operations at the time.
THE EVENTS RECOUNTED IN THIS STORY ARE DISTURBING. THEY SUGGEST THAT THE POLICE ARE TAKING AN UNDUE (IF NOT UNLAWFUL) INTEREST IN LOCAL POLITICAL ACTIVISTS NOT BECAUSE OF WHAT THEY DO BUT BECAUSE OF WHAT THEY REPRESENT.
IF THIS IS SO - THEN IT IS A DANGEROUS PRECEDENT



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A WORKING LIFE

To begin an occasional feature on the working lives of local people EYE spoke to two Tameside women who knew what it was like to serve King Cotton before the Great War.

Jane Riding

Miss Riding now nearly 90 years old who has lived in the West End of Ashton since moving from Wigan as a young woman.

I left school when I were 14. You had to pay if you could afford to. I passed what they call the 11+ now and I passed 't'Labour so I could start work earlier. My job at the mill were what we call doffin. You put a bobbin on and you take one off. Then, as you get older, you got put on ring spinning. We used to work from 6a.m. have breakfast at half past eight and then work 'till dinnertime. It took a week to learn the job, then you were put on wages second week. When you were on what they called 'three sides' you used to get 10/6p a week. It were a good wage.

union

When I was a ring spinner I joined the Union. It was a penny a week subs., but I don't recall any strikes. For five bob you could buy a lot - you could buy a pound of chops for sixpence, coal it were sixpence a bag. The rent was two and eleven pence. Them's what they call the good old days to the people who could make ends meet. You could get a dozen eggs for a shilling.

For breakfast we used to take a boiled egg in a can. Then you'd go out for fish and chips. Inside the mill it were hot in summertime, and the noise - well, you got used to t'noise. The doffers weren't killed with work, they used to go and play. We used to go in t'toilet and climb and swing round a board.

charlie chaplin

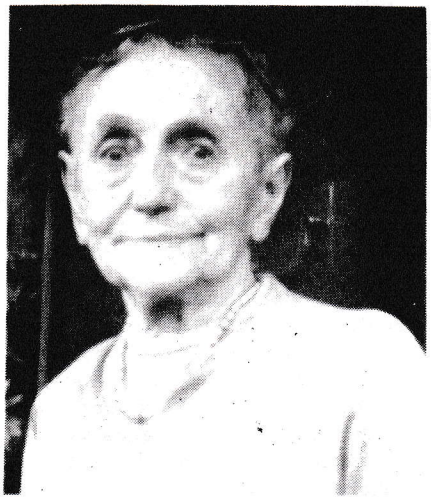
After work mother found us cleaning to do. We didn't go out. I was 18 before I went to the pictures. They was silent pictures - I used to watch Charlie Chaplin, I were one of his fans.

Sometimes people would sing together, the old fashioned songs, but they used to be good. I used to spend my money on pictures and I didn't get any for anything else. When I started to go to church it were the Minister as brought my dress and coat and the coat I used to wear for work,

southport for 5p

I never went on holiday, we couldn't afford it. We did go to Southport once for a shilling and when I worked at Shaws Brushworks we went on a picnic once.

Clara Hallam



Clara Hallam in her 83rd year, who has lived within sight of the Atlas Mill chimney in Ashton for virtually all her life.

I went to Christchurch school. I was 14 when I left. After school I stopped home until I was 16 because my mother had an accident at the mill.

ring spinning

I started at Palatine Packing Co. in Ryecroft, I left there to go to Hurst Mills as a ring spinner. Then my mother died in the 1914/18 war and I had to leave to look after six of my brothers and sisters. They were all younger than me. There's ring spinning yet, but it's changed. They have more to do, they have to flog. We didn't have to flog but it were little wages.

spinners cancer

Of course they had the Spinners Union, that's where they got their money from when they had spinners cancer. They were dying at 40 and 50 with that. It's the oil off the machinery. It were awful when they got it. I looked after my husband 20 years with spinners cancer. He never got a wage after 1949 - I got eleven bob a week compensation for losing him.

general strike

There were strikes but they were not like they are now. You were only out for a few weeks before you had to go back because there were nowt. They might get a bit more money. I remember the General Strike. We had to go to each others houses. One mother would make a big steak pudding one day and my mother would make a meat and tater pie the next day. All eight of us would eat at one another's houses so it would save money. We were all out except for one place where they were spoiling. A certain class of young fellas would go to work while the pickets were on. Them were washouts because we were all come out, and they were doing it on the sly. They were ordinary workers. Every time I'd see them I'd say "Oh you are washouts aren't you-yer handrags."

swing boat

Holidays were a week at Ashton Wakes We went on the big swing boats on t' market. I used to like them, I used to stand on the top end. I used to like Blackpool, you only needed about £4 and you were landed for the week. Get a few lads and you were gone! Or we used to go to Belle Vue, take a train from Ashbury's to Park Parade. To get us all on we had to get in the guard's van 'cause there was no room.' It were happy days then.

Wanted Urgently

Someone to help in typing of EYE editorial (a few hours during the week before layout) Typewriter and all equipment supplied.

Sorry - we can't offer wages, only eternal thanks.

CONTACT: Glossop 61702

THE MURAL MAN

David Vaughan is the North West's first community artist, a mural painter by trade; you will have seen examples of his work at Sew 'n Sews, Fletcher St, the Jubilee Queen mural in Whiteacre Rd, and the children's ward of Tameside Hospital. Currently, he is running Noah's Ark, a community arts resource centre in Market St. Stalybridge financed by North West Arts to the tune of £9,000 per year. Meeting David Vaughan you see his genuine dedication to changing the look of drab, colourless environments. He is obviously skilled with large scale designs paint. Also, he believes in the importance of involving the community, especially kids, in helping with his work, But, these two things, a belief in communal participation, and a highly individual impulsiveness to do what he wants to do, and to hell with bureacracy, rarely go together. The fact that bureacracy pays the wages adds to the difficulty.

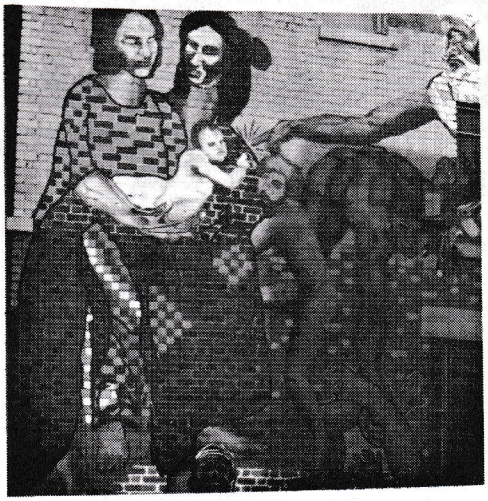
Dreamer

His past history sheds light on the conflicting stories one hears of him. He says that when a lad he dreamt, one night, of pulling out a brand new bike from the canal. Next morning he did, only to be disbelieved and accused of stealing by parents and relations. He recounts this story to show his faith in keeping on hoping. He seems to need it.

Former nocturnal forays with a paintbrush 'transformed' the front doors of unsuspecting householders. Understandably, the London police were not amused, nor understanding. He was arrested three times, he took psychiatric advice but soon local councils were falling over themselves to employ 'artists' and pay someone to alleviate the effects of their architectural incompetence, as long as it wasn't too imaginative.

Sectarian

Vaughan's exterior mural for the Elfrede Rathbone project in Liverpool three years ago, a colourful design of Sistine-chapel like figures, had to be painted out because it was considered 'Sectarian'. His wall painting in Ashton of Her Majesty was set within a large black circle (the ball) attached to a chained foot. The foot was ordered to be removed.
His multi-media anti-war exhibition designed to tour schools, entitled 'Masters of War' (musical tapes, paintings and drawings) was purchased by Tameside council; and thence consigned to the basement of Audenshaw Library for the past 2½years, presumably as some sort of obscure investment.
Small chance that David Vaughan's answer to a fellow painters mural of a spitfire his own version being a row of planes upended on their tails like crosses, will ever find a patron.



Madonna and child in Liverpool

And, when working in Tameside Hospital children's ward, Vaughan desired to paint the kid's lockers as well as the walls. This was refused because 'the place wouldn't look like a hospital any more.' Presumably a view not voiced by the children. Hardly encouraging. Hence Vaughan's suspicion and dislike of any and all organisation. Because organisation in the past has meant opposition or restriction. The painter started work in the hospital impatient of permission and was slung out. It was months before he was allowed to return.

Over eager

Past experience in playschemes in the West End of Ashton and Hattersley have been unfortunate, according to those associated at the time; kids ran wild with paint, structures for adventure playgrounds collapsed, the painter did not heed advice and was over-eager.
One thing is certain, Vaughan's 'employers' have at their disposal a skilled working painter and are not getting the best out of him. He feels as if it is a perpetual battle and so he always expects a battle.

Progress

Optimistically, current work is progressing well, a two year project to decorate the plain buildings of Hadfield School with concrete bas reliefs cast from Polystyrene moulds donated by a local Glossop firm. The kids are helping.
Hopefully, he will be allowed the freedom he needs to show how community art can be both imaginative and practical.

Mural in Tameside General Hospital Childrens Ward.

S ON · WHATS ON · WHATS

film reviews

High Anxiety

Having parodied the 'western' the 'horror film' and the 'silent movie' with varying degrees of success in his previous three films, Mel Brooks turns to the 'thriller' in High Anxiety, his latest offering now showing in Manchester.
To be more exact he parodies the most successful director of thrillers that Hollywood has produced - Alfred Hitchcock - and he goes to the trouble of pointing out that good parody has to be closer to the thing it parodies than Brooks manages to be.
The film is not without touches of Brooks particular brand of humour, but the story itself is very thin, scarcely strong enough to hang a few exaggerated cliches on.
Hitchcock fans will doubtless smile (they can hardly laugh) as they recognise scenes from various of the masters classics, but they will also realise that the film they are watching, even bearing in mind that it is a parody, is not particularly captivating or indeed thrilling.

Grease

You have to queue outside the Stalybridge Palace in sub zero temperatures for half an hour on a bleak and dreary Weds. night to appreciate just how effective a marketing operation Cinema International run.
Because 'Grease' as a film has little to offer.
Some off-beat choreography and two good songs, but all that was on Top of the Pops anyway.
Olivia Newton John?
Was it she who brought you here? She, with all the allure and sex-appeal of a wet dish rag?
Travolta then? Sex appeal he has, but act? No, he can't. And you can't wiggle your hips all the time.
So, you see, all you are left with are the marketing executives of 'Cinema International' who are probably sexier than Olivia Newton John at any rate.
And bananas. The director directs a mean banana.
And hot dogs, and great red lollies and enormous phallic rods of glowing pink candyfloss.
Better than he directs humans anyway. For the film is, if it's anything, rude. And it's this, coupled with the suggestive choreography which stops the film from drooping irretrievably.

*Ashton Odeon 330 1993
Dec 10th Michael Caine
THE SWARM (X)
*Dec 17th for 2 weeks
JASON & THE ARGONAUTS (U)
+ MYSTERIOUS ISLAND (U)

GREASY JOHN

* Stalybridge Palace
GREASE (A) HOT WHEELS (U)
2pm, 5.40pm, 7.40pm

community

ASHTON

West End Community Centre (339 2728) Worker Guy Heppner.
Activities:
Mums & Tots Tue, Wed. 9.30 - 11.30 Kath Nuttall, Ryecroft Cottage, William St. AUL
Sunshine Club (OAPs) Tues 2-4.0 contact Jessie c/o Centre.
Youth Club Mon. Wed. 7-10.00
Arts & Crafts Tue. 7.30-9.30 Winnie Whiteside, 33 Trafalgar St
M.I.N.D. Thur. 7.30-9.30 c/o Centre.
Whist Club. Thur. Sat. 7.30-9.30
Karate Club. Sun. 10-12.00 J. Dransfield c/o Centre.
Indian Youth Group Sat. 2.00 contact c/o Centre.
Broadoak Youth Centre 339 2302 Broadoak Rd. AUL
Worker: Graham Evans
Activities:
Snr. Youth Club. Mon. Wed. Fri. 7-10.00
Jnr. Youth Club. Tue. Thur. 6.30-8.30
Mums & Tots. Tue. 2-4.00
Mrs. Barker, 124 Broadoak Rd. AUL. Thurs. 2-4.00 Mrs. Cox, 5 Timperly Fold AUL.
Playgroup. Mon-Fri. 9-12.00 contact c/o Centre.
Handicapped Club. Wed. Thur. 2.00
Social Services, Mercian House, AUL.
Childminders. Fri. a.m. Mrs. Jeffs, 62 Princess St. AUL.
Junior club Christmas show 19th Dec. and party.

HYDE

Hyde Youth & Community Centre. (368 6372) Lwr. Bennet St. Hyde.
Worker: Gerald Cooper.
Activities:
Snr. Youth Club. Mon. Thur. Fri. 7-10.00
Jnr. Youth Club. Thurs 7-9,00 Sat. 10-12.00
Playgroup Mon, Wed. 9.30-11.30 contact c/o Centre.
Young Wives (Probation Service) Tues. 10-12.00
Badminton Wed. 7-10.00 contact c/o Centre.
Snr. Citizens - every other Wed. Mrs. Brierley, 251 Dukinfield Rd. Hyde (368 6386)
Lunch Club Thurs. 12 - 1.00
Bill Lowe c/o Centre.
Toy Library Sat 2 - 4.00 contact Centre.
Adult Literacy. Mon. Wed. 7 - 9 Barbara Burgess, Warrington House, Church St. AUL (330 8888)
Special plug for Mums & Tots Tue & Thur 1.15 - 3.30 pm. badminton, T.T., sewing, toys for kids, and snacks.
Lunch every Thur. from 12.00. Every one welcome.
OAP's Mon 2 - 4pm Darts, pool, whist, T.T. crafts, bingo

DENTON

Denton Youth & Community Centre (336 4881) Prestwich St. Denton. Worker: John Burns.
Jnr. Youth Club. Tue. 6.30-8.30
Mums & Tots. Mon. 10-12.00. Thurs. 1. - 3.00.

STALYBRIDGE

Millbrook Youth & Community Centre. (338 3533) Grenville St. off Huddersfield Rd. Stalybridge.
Worder: Glenn Routledge.
Luncheon club starting - any helpers contact Glenn c/o Centre.
Youth Club disco every other Thurs.
Copley Youth & Community Centre 338 6230 Demesse Drive, Copley Estate, Stalybridge. Activities:
Snr. Youth Club Mon, Wed, Thurs, Sat. 7.30 - 10.30.
Jnr. Youth Club. Tue. 7 - 9.30.
Playgroup. Mon. Wed. Fri. 9-12.30
Social Services Dept. Melbourne St. Stalybridge (338 4314/3753, 303 9519)
Unemployed lunch club. Thurs. 12-3.00. Contact c/o Centre.
Blind Club. Mon. 1-4.30. Social Serv's Stalybridge.
Handicapped club Mon. Thurs. 1.4.30 Social Services, Stalybridge.
Mums & Tots. Tue 9.30 - 12.30
Mrs. J. Knowles (427 2607)
1-parent family group. Tue. 9.30-12.30 Mrs. M.Cook, 22 Ambleside Stalybr. 338 3599
Evergreen Club (OAP's) Wed. 1-4.30 Mrs. W. Buckley, 30 Copley Ave, Copley Estate, Stalybridge (303 9462)

DROYLSDEN

Fairfield Centre (370 1383) Grove St. Droylsden. Worker: Ernie Mellor. Activities:
Mums & Tots. Mon 1.30-4.00
Julie Dickson c/o Centre
Snr. Youth Club Mon & Wed. 5.45 - 6.40.

HATTERSLEY

Hattersley Youth Club 368 8513 Hattersley Rd. East, Hattersley.
Worker: Nick Cooper. Activities: wide range of youth club pursuits. Opening times, Snrs. Mon. Tue. Wed. 7-10. Jnrs. Thurs.

MOSSLEY

Mossley Youth & Community Centre (698 2292) Milton St. Mossley. Activities:
Youth Club. Tue. Wed. Fri. 9.15 - 11.15.
Christine Riley (Mossley 4530)
St. John's Ambulance Fri. 6.45 - 9.00
Mrs. S. Zidan c/o Centre.

FREE
LISTINGS
PHONE
GLOSSOP
61702

help!

Age Concern Tameside	64 Warrington St. A.u.L 308 3697
Brindle House Day Care Centre	366 0313
Citizen's Advice Bureaux	330 2516
British Pregnancy Advisory Service,	Fourway House, Hilton St., Manchester 1. 236 7777
Electricity Board	338 5811
Emergency Electricity Repairs	223 0900/1145
Gas Board	480 4999
Manchester Law Centre	595 Stockport Rd. M/cr.13. 225 5111
MIND	300 Stamford St. A.u.L. 330 9223
Manchester Area Resource Centre,	61 Bloom St. M/cr. 236 1117
N.S.P.C.C.	643 5430
North West Water Authority (Emergencies)	Heywood (49) 68654
Police	330 8321
Samaritans	834 9000
Social Security	Newton St. Hyde. 368 5221
	Booth St. A.u.L. 330 8333
Social Services	Beeley St. Hyde. 368 1973
	Mercian House, A.u.L. 330 8355
Tameside General Hospital	330 8373
Tameside Council for Racial Equality	336 3359
Tameside Housing Aid Centre	154 Stamford St. 330 8355
Tameside Volunteer Bureau	300 Stamford St. West. A.u.L. 339 2345
Tameside Emergency Services	Building (inc. Housing Repairs) 370 1355
	Engineers (Roads, Sewers, Street Lights) 368 1371
	Environmental Health 338 2605
Housing	336 6431
Social Services	339 2222

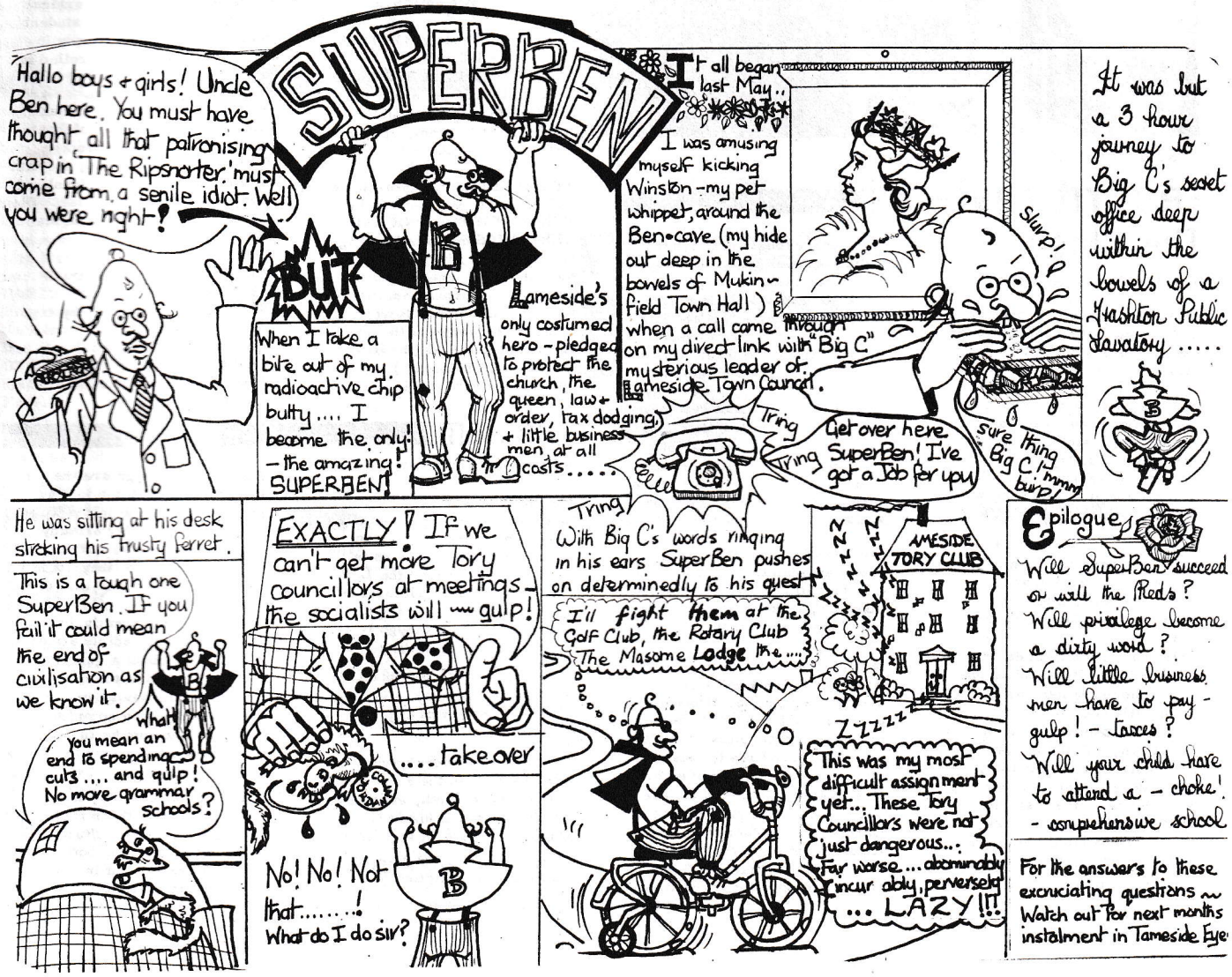
beer

Its not often that the genuine piss-artist has anything good to say about a Bass Charrington pub. 'Cos the beer's not REAL you see.
The maundering conversations of the bona-fide excrutiatingly tedious REAL BEER sot always remind me of daft philosophical conversations about whether the objects we SEE e.g. beer mats, bog walls, barmaids) are really there.
The fact that the average unphilosophical moron SEES them and that's enough for him, matters not a joy to the philosophers.
And, neither does it matter in a REAL BEER argument whether you actually enjoy Keg beer.
You CAN'T enjoy beer unless its been brewed on the left side of the Great Manchester Canal at 30 degrees below freezing, in a barrel made of genuine scots pine thats been soaked in marrow bone jelly for three weeks - or something. And if you insist it only proves you've got a debased palate.
Well, I like Stones bitter, and I like the Victoria pub. It's got new landlords in and they're really trying. They've left the taproom much as it was, so, if you're into belching, farting and dirty jokes you can spend a lovely evening in traditional bareboarded surroundings, running the risk of getting a dart in your ear. But, they've gone to town on the saloon. Gone is the deep blue and green wallpaper, which always made me feel I was going under for the last time, and in are a lot (probably too many) of old sepia prints of languishing ladies and pouting pubescents. Kitsch - but it gives you something to look at apart from your burgeoning belly.
There's red-checked cloths on the tables (with candles) and you can get food whenever you want it.
And a folk night on a Weds.
And if you are a REAL BEERER and you have just about the same reaction to UNREAL abominations as the average Hindu has to a plate of pig fat then you can always drink the White Shields pale ale and the Guiness Triple X.

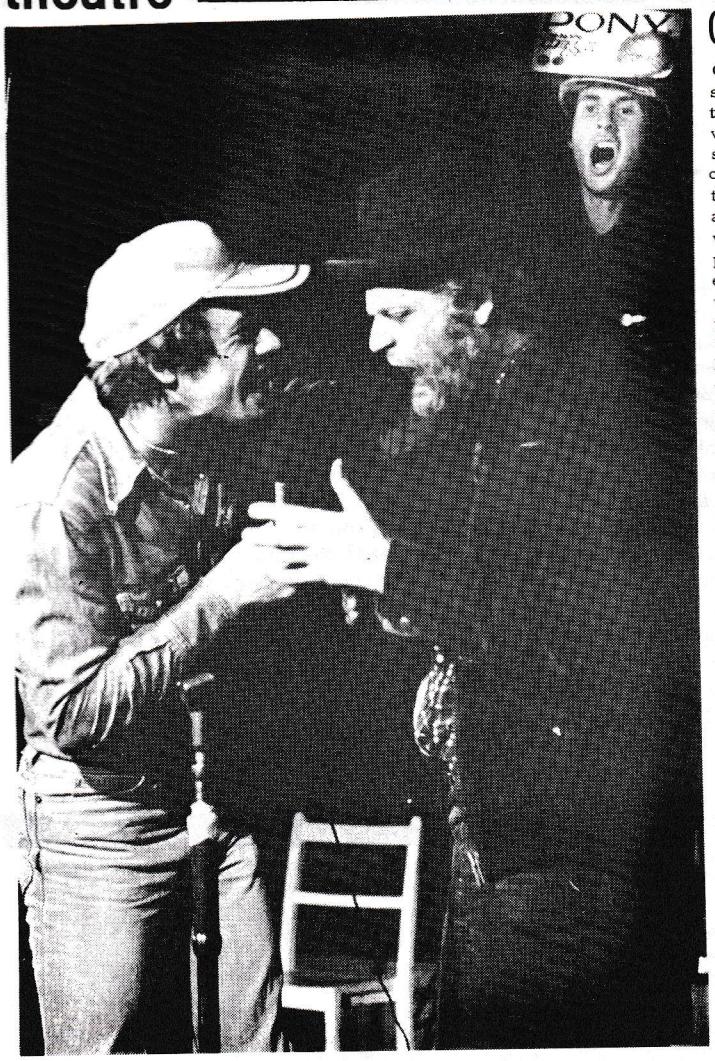
After last months beer column we got a phone call from Mr. Grady the landlord of the Oxford pub on Stockport Rd. AUL. In the last 'beer column' we said that all the pubs in the West End of Ashton were keg and not 'real' beer houses.
Mr. Grady reckons that all the pubs in the West End, with the exception of the Birch are not keg, but 'real'

we would welcome your opinions on this.

THE SECRET LIFE OF Uncle Ben


SUPERBEN
Hallo boys + girls! Uncle Ben here. You must have thought all that patronising crap in 'The Ripsnorter' must come from a senile idiot. Well you were right!
BUT
When I take a bite out of my radioactive chip butty.... I become the only! - the amazing! SUPERBEN
Tameside's only costumed hero - pledged to protect the church, the queen, law + order, tax dodging + little business men, at all costs.....
It all began last May..
I was amusing myself kicking Winston - my pet whippet, around the Ben-cave (my hide out deep in the bowels of Mukin-field Town Hall) when a call came through on my direct link with "Big C" mysterious leader of Tameside Town Council.
Tring
Get over here SuperBen! I've got a Job for you
Slurp!
Sure thing Big C! mmm burp!
It was but a 3 hour journey to Big C's secret office deep within the bowels of a Hashton Public Lavatory .....
He was sitting at his desk stroking his trusty ferret.
This is a tough one SuperBen. If you fail it could mean the end of civilisation as we know it.
What! You mean an end to spending cuts.... and quilp! No more grammar schools?
EXACTLY! If we can't get more Tory councillors at meetings the socialists will - gulp!
....take over
No! No! Not that.....! What do I do sir?
Tring
With Big C's words ringing in his ears SuperBen pushes on determinedly to his quest
I'll fight them at the Golf Club, the Rotary Club The Masome Lodge the....
TAMESIDE TORY CLUB
ZZZZZ
This was my most difficult assignment yet... These Tory Councillors were not just dangerous...: Far worse... abominably incurably, perversely ... LAZY!!!
Epilogue
Will SuperBen succeed or will the Reds? Will privilege become a dirty word? Will little business men have to pay - gulp! - taxes? Will your child have to attend a - choke! - comprehensive school
For the answers to these excruciating questions - Watch out for next months instalment in Tameside Eye

theatre



CAST IN "CONFESSIONS OF A SOCIALIST"

Cast

CAST's "What Happens Next?" sets out to explore attitudes to the National Front. First we were verbally assaulted by speeches from a National Front candidate in the 1976 local elections and an ex-Nazi. Then the arguments to counteract the NF were put forward by a group of people as they lived through the experience of a strike involving white and black workers on a productivity deal.

The central character was Ralph, a shop steward with a nice line in homespun philosophy. He had been going along with this, going along with that, going along to dental appointments all his life. We saw Ralph become a works convenor, look embarrassed at the social evenings organised by West Indian and Asian strikers and addressing his union conference with a speech that began, "Mr. Chairperson."

The arguments Ralph and his mate had at work with the convenor, who couldn't think for himself and gave out management's and union officials' views secondhand, provided the political meat of the play. This included warnings about manage ments tricks, sell-outs by union officials and the problems of uniting black and white workers. Ralph's wife had left him, and he drove his daughter up the wall with his trade union reminiscences, but then she became a punk. So all the characters ended up in the Anti-Nazi League without having resolved their differences. This was as close as the play came to Pointing a Way Forward.

Though CAST are limited by their need for movable scenery, and, at this performance, by lack of space, there were some nice touches: like the deafening noise every time someone went in or out of the factory convenor's office.

I could carp about groups like CAST "preaching" but all in all the political satire was amusing, and not exclusively confined to the converted.

Listings

*Francis Shaw Social Club, Corbett St., Openshaw, M/c 11. BAKER'S SPECIAL. Social to support the striking bakers - entertainment, booze. Featuring N.W. Spanner in PARTISANS. 8pm Monday 13th Dec. Raffle, collection. 5Op entrance.

*Tameside Theatre 330 2095 23rd Dec - 3rd Feb. JACK AND THE BEANSTALK 2.3Opm & 7.3Opm every day for first fortnight, then Mat. on Wed, Sat 1.3Opm, 5pm & 8pm.

*Forum Theatre, Wythenshawe. 437 9663 8th Dec. - 27th Jan. THE WITCH THAT NICKED CHRISTMAS by Mike Harding. His first play, it contains all the wit and spontaneity of his own live performances. He has written the music & lyrics for many of the songs in the show, an original, moral (the Real Meaning of Christmas) and funny story with magic characters (Uncle Scruffy, furry caterpillar) the children will love. Mon-Sat 7pm, Mat. 2.3Opm

*Contact Theatre 273 5696 Devas St. Till 16th Dec. SCENES FROM SOWETO by Steve Wilmer. A biographical account of a S. African student returning home from study in England, becomes embroiled in the Soweto riots.

* 21st Dec. - 2Oth Jan. BENDIGO - a musical by Ken Campbell. The show celebrates the life and times of Bendigo Thompson - born in 1811, the last of 21 children, a great drunkard, evangelist and prizefighter. Died attempting somersaults in his 69th year.

*Royal Exchange Theatre 833 9833 till 16th Dec. THE WINTER'S TALE by William Shakespeare.

* 22nd Dec. - 3rd Feb. CINDERELLA a musical by Trevor Peacock, author of "Leaping Ginger."

record reviews

The Clash

Give 'em enough rope CBS

This album's been recorded and brought out with a lot of pressure on the group, both by the kids - who see the band as the new working-class heroes of our age, and by the businessmen, anxious to make as much money as possible out of this new product by trying to get them to do TV pop shows (Top of the Pops etc), also the whole star trip of interviews with the press.

Behind all this they have been having a running battle with their Manager, Bernie Rhodes, although I hear that now they've sacked him.

This album, then, finds them in a 'conflict situation,' in one way pushing themselves forward - it's been produced by a big rock producer, Sandy Pearlman, but holding back with their musical identity, their ideas are not all that different from the last one. What we have got is a very glossy 'The Clash' though the melodies are stronger.

Because of this they are treading treacherously on the borderline between punk and heavy metal, and this is dangerous because if they fall over the edge they become just another band from L.A. so to speak. This is where the whole punk concept falls down musically as the band play together more and more they cannot help but get better, more together and get away from the whole punk thing of garage music - music unhindered by the strings of the huge record business machine we have in this country.

The Sex Pistols, of course, neatly avoided this trap by just disintegrating - Bang - no more. However, never mind the bollocks here's the Clash.

It is a better record than the first one and it's got a much cleaner production; it's more accessible, the music's stronger but not compromising - it's loud, rough 'n' ready music to offend yer mum and dad with. Best tracks, to my mind, are 'Tommy Gun' (the single) 'Safe European Home' and the superb if not unfortunately titled at the moment 'Drug Stabbing Time'. Buy it and pogo the night away.

The Jam

All Mod Cons . Polydor.

The Jam, on the other hand, have progressed dramatically. They remind me of the Who, not so much musically as in their whole concept, the L.P. sleeve containging pictures of motor scooters; all very mod. What they are not though is a throw-back to the sixties.

They've got their feet planted firmly and squarely in the late seventies both lyrically and musically.

There is a lot more variety on this record than the first one. It's got more depth, everything ranging from the sheer force of the title track to Paul Weller's solo track, the acoustic guitar backed 'English Rose.'

Also included here are the David Watts 'A Bomb in Wardour St.' and 'Down in the Tube Station at Midnight,' already released as singles but put on the album because they fit in conceptually with the rest of the songs.

'Tube Station' currently in the charts is an incredibly atmospheric song about a guy getting beaten to death in the underground on his way home to his wife, about a man completely isolated, knowing he is never going to see the woman he loves again.

Here are two albums, then, from bands with their roots embedded in the punk culture of a couple of years ago, both pushing their feelers out in quite different directions.

music listings

JAZZ
*Palatine Inn, Hadfield
Thurs. Spreadeagle Stamford St. 'Fourplay'

PUB ROCK
*Mon, Tue, Wed. Birch Hotel Birch St. AUL
Wed, Fri, Sat. Spreadeagle Stamford St. AUL. Roger Read Sound.
Thur, Fri. Commercial Hotel, Melbourne St. Stalybrg.
Fri, Sat, Sun lunch/evg. Globe Hotel Old St. AUL

FOLK
*Sun. Rose and Crown Stalybrg. Free. Well established club.

*Mon. White Gates, Hyde. CAMRA pub usually exc. music.

*Tues. The Clarence AUL. New club. Bass Charrington pub-worth a visit

*Weds. Cross Keys Uppermill Warm atmosphere.

*Thurs. Commercial Glossop Traditional club run by Terry Walsh.

*Fri. Rose and Crown Stalybg. Good club, gets crowded so go early.
*Sat. Stalybrg. Railway Station Buffet. Cramped but cosy, a few seats.

*Royal Exchange Theatre (833 9833)

Dec. 14th Lunchtime concert. THE GLOSSOP SCHOOL BRASS BAND conducted by Jack Fletcher.

On Friday 10th Nov. a R A R (Rock Against Racism) concert was held at the Crowhill Centre, Richmond St. Ashton. About 70 people turned up in support of the cause.
After a few small upsets the local group 'School Bus' played us into the night with some heavy rock.
Food was a bargain at 10p a plate which contained a mountain of salad and a roast potato.
If you missed the last concert you may be pleased to hear that there will be another one soon.

~ ~ ~

We apologise for the omission of Starlaws cartoon. It will be back again next issue.

Tameside Eye thanks WEB (West End Bulletin) for their £40 donation.

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and there will be lots of eyes on you

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Printed by RAP, Spotland Road, Rochdale.

eating out

Olympia Grill

227 Stamford St., Ashton U Lyne

Although rather plain in decor this little Italian restaurant offers a splendid and appetizing menu.
For the adventurous a start can be made with clear turtle soup, sherry or lobster soup with brandy and cream, both at 85p.
Less exotic favourites include corn on the cob or prawn cocktail.
In true Italian style you can start your meal with any variety of pasta, canelloni, spagetti bolognese or lasagne - all served piping hot.
Main courses will cost you from £1.95 to £3.25 they include steaks, pork chops, chicken, halibut, plaice, fillet steaks (Filletto Alla Nerone) skewered with bacon and herbs.
Flambee in brandy will cost you £3.25 with potatoes and veg included. Veal (Vitello Piemontese) prepared with mushrooms, asparagus, cheese and tomato sauce is £2.23. Extra portions of veg are available and include a wide variety - celery, asparagus, mushrooms, cauliflower, spinach and broccoli. Nice to see such a large variety for £1.95. There are a good variety of salads too.
Wine is not cheap. The Olympia has an extensive choice of Italian, Spanish, German and French wines the dearest around £4.95 but a few available in ½ bottles.
Again, for sweets, an extensive menu is offered, including banana split, peach melba, ice cream gateau for around 60p.
We visited the Olympia on a cold November night and would have been happier if the heating had been a little higher, nevertheless well worth a visit.

meetings

*WOMEN IN TAMESIDE GROUP Meet fortnightly on Mons. to discuss women's affairs. All women welcome.
1 Hawthorn Gr. A U L Off M/cr. Rd. Opp. Quicks Garage. or Tel. Glossop 61702.

*TUES (EVERY OTHER WEEK) Glossop Women's Voice. Contact Carol 67 64287

*WOMENS GROUP in Hyde/Mottram, meets fortnightly. Contact Penny 368 6341 or Joan at Mottram 63048.

visual arts

Mancnester
*Central Library M/c.
9am-9pm Mon-Fri
9am-5pm Sat
Dec 1st - 30th THAT PRETTY GERMAN TOY An exhibition covering the history of the Christmas tree and its links with Manchester. Free
Dec. 4th - Jan 6th OFF TO THE PANTO - Panto Books. Programmes and photos from the Central's collection. Free.
Dec 4th - Jan 6th COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON - a pictoral history of the Christmas card. Free.
*Colin Jellicoe Gallery
82 Portland St.
10am-6pm Mon - Fri
1pm - 5pm Sat.

Nov - Dec 23rd VICKI WATTS CERAMIC SCULPTURE Free
*Rochdale Art Gallery
The Esplanade, Rochdale
Mon-Sat 10am-5pm
Sun 2.30 - 5pm
Dec 9th - Jan 14th PAINTINGS BY GEORGE MANWARING (a local painter who is well known as an authority on the history of Rochdale. And CALLIGRAPHY BY HELLA BASU An artist/designer whose work is exhibited Internationally Included is her new book "In the beginning" a combination of Calligraphy and photography Free
*Oldham Art Gallery
10am - 7pm Mon, Wed, Thur, Fri. 10am-1pm Tues. 10am-4pm Sat.

Winter. Hella Basu

Until 23rd Dec.
CHRISTMAS CRAFT. Exhibit. and sale of craft (Everybody's doing it!) Free.
*City Art Gallery Mosley St.
10am - 6pm Mon - Sat
2.30pm - 6pm Sun
Dec-Jan NEW DISPLAY OF M/C VICTORIAN MASTERPIECES Now at a peak of popularity after the city's Victorian Renaissance Exhibition. Free.
*Portico Library Gallery
Mosley St. 6th - 22nd Dec
CRAFTS FOR CHRISTMAS '78
BUY EARLY FOR.....!
Free
*Royal Northern College of Music. To 16th Dec.
Christmas Craft Exhibition.
CERAMICS AND TEXTILES BY N. W. CRAFTSPEOPLE. Free

book review

The Condition of Musak

by Michael Moorcock

Unfortunate name-Moorcock. It's always seemed so descriptive of his output. Yards of subtolkien twaddle in technicolour covers.
But the Jerry Cornelius' quartet has got itself something of a reputation and this last one, 'The Condition of Musack' even won the Guardian fiction prize last year.
It's just come out in paper back, so I read it, or tried to.
It says on the back that Jerry is seeking sanctuary in separate, private 'mythologies'.
Well, he certainly gets around a lot.

For example, he turns up on the North West Frontier fighting for the Raj; in the swinging sixties as a rock star; in the far flung future as the ruler of the Free City State of London.
History is changed, frequently, for a few pages the Russians still own Alaska and are busily invading Canada. Somewhere else Brighton is ruled by Maharajas and Liverpool by a gaggle of Chinese Mandarins.
There are any number of wars, metamorphoses and transmogrifications.

A motley crew of regular characters, including his mum, brother Frank and mysterious sister Cath, a Bishop called Beesley, a lesbian, Una Persson, and numerous others too silly to mention, appear with Cornelius and undergo as many costume changes as the man himself.
So, what's it all about?
There's a lot of history in it (but no coherent idea of historical development).
There are a lot of events (but no story), there are a lot of characters (but few insights) and the narrative hinges on the idea of time-travel (but its imaginative possibilities are rarely taken seriously).
I read on, expecting a pattern if only a pattern of incoherance - to emerge.
But, I should have realised after page 153 when Jerry is asked "There's some sort of shape to what's going on isnt there" and he replies "If there is I haven't detected any!" that there wasn't going to be one.
'The Condition of Musack' is published in paperback by Fontana at 95p. The other Jerry Cornelius novels are 'The Final Programme', 'A Cure for Cancer' and 'The English Assassin'.
All are available in paperback.

LETTER

Dear Tameside Eye,
In your coverage of the Tameside CARF and Anti Nazi League opposition to the National Front football escapade you were no better than the gutter press in your concentration on the violence.

You did not mention that CARF has spent many hours lobbying league officials, clubs and players, or the support CARF has received from the local M. P.'s and prominent football personalities.

Neither did you look at the attitude of the Unions - NALGO, for instance who have officially instructed all members to black any work associated with the N.F. A more useful angle on this issue would have been for you to quiz league officials like Mr. Warrington, to get behind the public statements in the other papers that have made this man sound like an avid supporter of the Nazis.

These are the issues behind the surface of the 'violence.'
Your news, reviews, whats on are all very good, but get your features policy sorted out please!
Yours sincerely,
John Pearson,
Mossley.
Treasurer of Tameside CARF.

Flowery Fields School

unequal treatment

Recently the Reporter (10.11.78) carried a front page article about two Hyde schools and quoted from a press statement issued by teachers at Flowery Fields Sec. school. In it they mentioned a 'deteriorating situation' at their school.
It appears that all is not well betweenthe Headmaster Mr. L.J. Leach and the teaching staff.
On Tues. 28th Nov. at a School Governors Meeting, the Head was accused of 'unprofessional conduct' by a member of staff. for calling this staffmember a 'bum' in public at the school.
The Governors, after hearing evidence from both sides decided that the Head was guilty but..... no action need be taken!
It's worth noting that the Governors are people of principle, however, for on a previous occasion the Head accused a teacher of 'unprofessional conduct' for, among other things, playing a record player in school without the head's permission. In the end the Councillors were dragged in to decide and they threw out most of the head's charges.
But, the record player charge stuck, and this teacher's otherwise impeccable record now has 'unprofessional conduct' stamped on it, for using a bona fide teaching aid in an English class without the Head's permission.

It's a case of the Governors showing compassion for the Head and none for the teacher. In Tameside we call this 'selective education'.

ANY NEWS
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300 Stamford St, A-U-Lyne.
tel. 339-2545

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